

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 INR-07

OES-06 EUR-12 CIAE-00 ACDA-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4894

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 3292

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US, PARM

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YAQUB HEADING FOR WASHINGTON WITH
BHUTTO'S REPLY

REF: STATE 68624

1. WE LEARNED YESTERDAY THAT AMBASSADOR YAQUB KHAN HAD DEPARTED PAKISTAN AND WAS EN ROUTE TO WASHINGTON VIA TEHRAN CARRYING WITH HIM BHUTTO'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER OF MARCH 19 ON NON-PROLIFERATION. THE MINISTRY HERE TELLS US THAT THE PAK EMBASSY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT FOR YAQUB WITH THE SECRETARY IN THIS CONNECTION.

2. I DO HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY WILL BE ABLE TO MEET WITH YAQUB. I BELIEVE THAT THE FACT THAT THE AMBASSADOR IS PERSONALLY CARRYING THE LETTER IS INDICATIVE OF THE IMPORTANCE THE PAKISTANIS ATTACH TO SUCH A MEETING ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUE, AND I WOULD EXPECT THAT HAVING JUST SEEN BHUTTO YAQUB WILL WANT TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND ON THE TEXT.

3. I THINK THAT THE FACT THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN OFFERED A COPY OF THE LETTER, DESPITE BHUTTO'S EARLIER PROMISE TO MAKE ONE AVAILABLE TO US AS SOON AS IT WAS
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COMPLETED, ALSO UNDERSCORES THE PAK INTEREST IN YAQUB'S

SEEING THE SECRETARY. BHUTTO, AZIZ AHMED, AND AGHA SHAHI HAVE ALL BEEN AWAY FROM ISLAMABAD FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS, WITH BHUTTO BARNSTORMING IN BALUCHISTAN AND THE OTHER EITHER WITH HIM OR IN KARACHI. WHILE THIS COULD BE CITED AS A POSSIBLE REASON WE HAVEN'T BEEN CUT IN ON THE TEXT OF THE BHUTTO LETTER, I THINK THE PAKS SIMPLY WANT TO BE SURE THAT THEY DO NOT IN ANY WAY JEOPARDIZE PROSPECTS FOR YAQUB'S APPOINTMENT.

4. YAQUB MIGHT ALSO WANT TO PASS ALONG SOME THOUGHTS FROM BHUTTO ON THE PRIME MINISTER'S APPROACH TOWARD THE SUGGESTED SECURITY TREATY BETWEEN PAKISTAN, IRAN AND TURKEY. THE DEPARTMENT IS NOW CONSIDERING WHAT USG REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL MIGHT APPROPRIATELY BE, AND I KNOW THE SUBJECT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO THE SECRETARY.

5. I'D ALSO HOPE THAT THE MEETING COULD BE FOLLOWED UP WITH OTHERS FROM TIME TO TIME IF THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE PERMITS. WHILE NATURALLY PREFER FOR THE MOST PART TO CARRY ON THE US-PAK DIALOGUE DIRECTLY WITH BHUTTO, AN OCCASIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR YAQUB TO REPRESENT BHUTTO AT THE SECRETARY'S LEVEL WOULD PROBABLY BE A HELPFUL AND HEALTHY THING.
BYROADE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES, DIPLOMATIC NOTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ISLAMA03292
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760130-1205
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760489/aaaacxmm.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 68624
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR YAQUB HEADING FOR WASHINGTON WITH BHUTTO'S REPLY
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, PK, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006